



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK



THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
WESTBEX EDITION, SPRING 2020

## The Chairmans Report

After several good meetings it is such a pity that our annual WESTBEX Stamp Fair had to be cancelled.

So much work had been put into organising the event from dealers, advertising, posters and programmes.

Graeme and Martin had done so much work only for it to be all for nothing.

Ann Martin had been organising the raffle and prizes. It has been decided to cancel the raffle and, later on, to reimburse all ticket holders.

Note that London 2020 has also been cancelled and has been re-scheduled for February 2022

Also, until further notice, all our monthly meetings will also be cancelled as well.

Mike Smith, Chairman.

**Year 54**

**Issue 148**

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A lovely Christmas picture

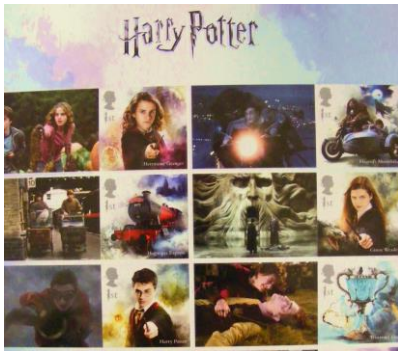
*For further information on  
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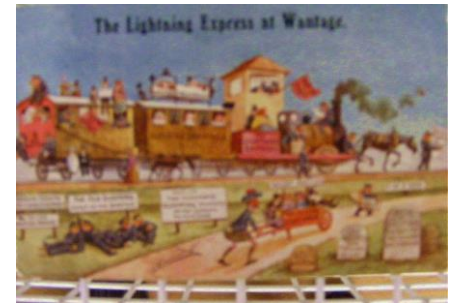
# Photo Gallery



Harry Who?



Washington crossing the Delaware



The Lightning Express



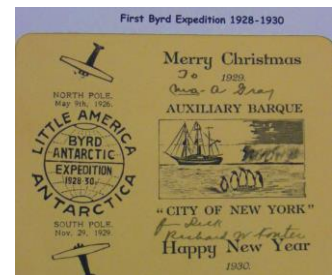
Ross Dependency Post Office



Self explanatory !



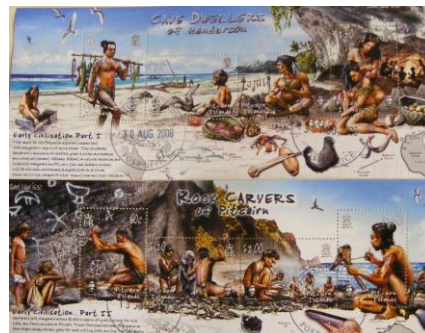
Revenues Book



Byrd Expedition  
1928-30



Please cancel stamps lightly!



Pitcairn Predecessors



Operation Pedestal



Iranian Revenues



Yellow Spring Flowers



Parakeets



It is this way!

## PAST EVENTS

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January - `Winter`. There were 20 members present.**

**Dave Tanner** started things off by showing GB Christmas stamps then some Swedish and snowy American ones. Then he showed stamps from various countries about the Japan winter Olympics and finished off with a nice picture of the Valley Forge in winter.

**Juliet Keel** told how she lived in a cold Montreal and showed postcards of the snow and folks wearing snowshoes. Then a series of Swiss pictures of winter views and some of Toronto as well. A good sequence.

**Jim Andrews** then showed a series of religious winter pictures and Father Christmas with presents and deer. He followed with covers of the 1981 winter Olympics showing skiing and ice hockey.

**Neil Hatton** showed a lovely framed picture of two scenes of what Christmas was like some years ago. The pictures did look lovely framed like that.

**Martin Farr** was next and he showed some of his data about the Julian calendar and all about how it was changed to the modern sequence in 1752. He ended with the birth certificate of a David Lewis who was born in Moscow on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1912 or 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1913 (Anglican Church date). Reason – Russia did not change from the Julian until 1921 when 13 days then had to be deleted.

We started part 2 by organising subjects for future Monday meetings and then:-

**Mike Smith** showed some Australian Antarctic stamps and spoke about winter there. Then postcards and covers about journeys to the magnetic South Pole and the long stay there by explorer Moreson and his associates to study the climate.

**Bob Paterson** then showed one of his postcards that no-one had seen before – The Breakwater at Novorsibirsk from 16<sup>th</sup> April 1912.

**Alan Cross** was next with his “Christmas Box” of old letters and cards that he had started to peruse and had found several inter-connected covers to and from a Miss Hassel. Then he showed lots of various types of cancels that were also “in the box”.

**Graeme Stewart** was the last to for today and he showed pictures of a snowy Thatcham in 1908 and of a snowy Newbury market place. Then a snowy card from Switzerland to Newbury and a card posted in Newbury on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 1907. He finished up the afternoon by showing Christmas cards from the Antarctic expedition of 1928-30.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January – `Recent Acquisitions`. 21 members present**

**Alan Cross** started for us with some miscellaneous postage dues of Australia and special issues then some `cancelled to order` stamps and several letters that he found in the `box`, the box being the society one full of lots of ephemera.

**Malcolm Hoskins** then showed USA stamps of the Presidents then very nice comic strip sheets and lots of mint sheets of jazz musicians and movie monsters. Quite a collection.

**Bob Paterson** displayed National Parks issues of Japan 1936-70 and then postcards of St Michaels Mount, battleships and finished with several postcards of the region.

**Martin Farr** then showed three sheets of the Tokaido Road that completed the series of 54 stamps issued by Japan. What to collect next? The Nakasendo Highway has 80 way-stations so perhaps these stamps will start soon.



**Juliet Keel** then displayed postcards of places they had been to and then cards from the Pyrenees, Norway and some Hungarian costumes.

**Ian Keel** was next and he showed lots of GB issues and a nice album of the `Smilers`.

**Barney Bardsley** ended part one by showing lots of cards of tramways and the related engines from 1875 to about 1925. Then lovely postcards of old canals of the area leading to the Thames and Severn rivers and ended with great Basingstoke Canal cards.

**Jim Anderson** started part two by showing stamps and covers from the Maltese Post Office bought while they were there. Some lovely Operation Pedestal covers and traditional costumes of the island and several maritime vessels. A nice set of material.

**Dave Tanner** was next and he showed Iranian issues with errors on many. `P for D` for example, and then a residents visa of 1929 for a Mrs C Brooking with the photo quite intact.

**Jeff Rogers** then showed obliterations and obliterations on stamps with the Maltese Cross.

**Mike Smith** spoke about and displayed stamps of Botswana and Bechuanaland (where else) with errors on some stamps. Then the 1935 Silver Jubilee set with some errors.

**Graeme Stewart** was next and he showed nice WW2 covers to Boxford and pictures of Boxford House. Then five covers to the same person from 1942-3 and ended with some nice covers and sheets of the Ross Island Dependency.

**Francis Connolly** finished off the afternoon by showing some G.IV additions to his collection and trials issues thereof. He finished with British Expedition issues of 1924.

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February `Fiscals and Officials` with 12 members present.**

**Neil Hatton** started the afternoon with what he called his never-ending subject. He showed Virgin Islands overprints with USA currency, the Jamaica Officials and Maltese postage dues – a 1925 set. Then some quite bizarre Grenada overprints and Ascension issues that used overprinted St Helena stamps. Then a lot of nice overprint covers, Bechuanaland postage dues and sets from the commonwealth.

**Barney Bardsley** was next and he showed a large variety of revenue stamps from 1865-95. Issues with bi-coloured stamps and a large blue book all about C/W Revenues. It was quite a colourful and interesting book.

**Brian May** followed and showed a great collection of “Black Stamps”, Austrian fiscals and overprints and 1965 international air mini sheets. Then booklet sheets and information data about them and international airmail issues. He ended with several data sheets on “Black Stamps” of Austria. Very unusual to see so many.

**Ian Keel** then showed two sheets of fiscals and overprints from his collection.

**Dave Tanner** started part 2 with Iraq and Iran fiscals. Issues of 1881, definitives and overprints in 2 languages. Then sheets of overprints of revenues and Farsi definitives and an issue to raise funds for the Hospitals and Tuberculosis. He finished with some Turkish pictorials and revenues and showed a great illustrated book of Iranian Revenues.

**Mike Smith** then showed Stellaland fiscals of 1884 – the `Smiling Lions` issue and

Railway stamps with overprinted with Post Office data. Then he showed `Cape` stamp overprints and Transvaal and S. Africa sheets of different colours and shades. Nice.

**Graeme Stewart** ended the session by showing Guernsey revenues and revenue letters to Thatcham and Oxford. Then a 1d lilac revenues cover of Thatcham to Melksham and stamps to Newbury all overprinted `Official`

A good afternoons displays.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February `Transatlantic Postal History (USA/GB) 1757-1875`  
with Julian Jones. There were 18 members present/**

Julian started with a chronological sequence (1757-1875). They were mostly business letters to and from UK-USA advertising products and prices of the time. Many letters were sent for free and paid by the receiver. Most came by sailing ship and all mailbags had to be unloaded at the first port of call with 1cent ship fee and 3d to London fee. Then the USA increased to 2 cents while GB increased to 8 pence. . There were a multitude of superb letters and covers to illustrate all the data.

The coming of Brunel and steam ships made the transportation of mail much quicker. Distance charges in USA to get to New York and then a steamship across the Atlantic. Many if not all mail was carried by the new Cunard line from Boston to UK with charges increased of course. He ended part 1 with a lovely sheet showing the Ocean Penny Post sent from Sheffield to New England via Liverpool and New York in 1851.

For part 2 Julian once again displayed a great sequence of covers and letters and spoke about them all. Land and sea transport was increased to 1/- or 24cents. Accountancy marks were used on most mail. UK used Cunard while USA used several lines with Canada using them as well. Single rate was now 1/-, double 2/- and quad rate 4/- from New York or Boston to London or Liverpool used as exchange depots. Julian finished off with a wonderful picture of Liverpool docks showing a post arrival shed on the right where late mail could be delivered and paid for and then ferried out to the ship (in the distance) within 10 minutes of sailing and this was followed by a letter sent from Philadelphia to Manchester on board the Eagle lines "Schiller" which was wrecked in the Scilly Isles in 1875 and just 14 bags of mail from 62 were salvaged. This did not photo well. What a fantastic evenings entertainment with such lovely displays.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and the theme was Spring and Yellow with 16 members present.**

**Heather Lawn** started the afternoon with sheets of coloured parrots and yellow parakeets and several others including an Ararajuba parrot from Brazil.

**Jim Andrews** tried to find yellow items on stamps and found some on Mexican stamps – yellow chrysanthemums, irises and others. Then the Yellow Rose of Texas and an MS of a guy dancing with a yellowish cow and some odds and ends with yellow bits in them.

**Neil Hatton** was next and he showed a nice postcard of a lovely lady with yellow items all around her – it was a hand-painted `Oilette` card. Then a very yellow 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary card of a walkway to a castle and ended with a 1979 spring flower set.

**Mike Smith** then showed us yellow stamps from Australia and "Missing yellow" stamps from New Zealand and Canada. (continued on page 6).

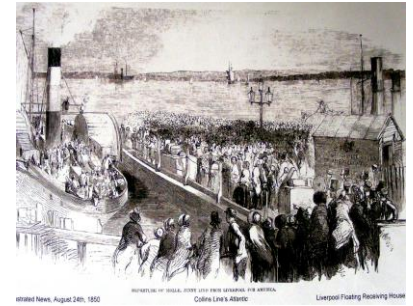
## THE POSTCARD PAGE (well sort of)



Julian Jones

The Regulations  
Ocean Penny Post

Cunard Mail



All Aboard

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March continued

**Judy Straughan** started part 2 with a bunch of plastic yellow tulips and pictures of all the yellow spring flowers in her garden – cowslips, daffodils, primroses and crocuses with some just missing the yellow in places – printer problems she said.

**Juliet Keel** was next and showed cards and stamps of yellow flowers from around the world (some borrowed from David's boxes). Then sheets of cards all about Easter – one with a boy holding a stuffed fish that was used to stick on someones back for April Fools Day in France.

To finish the afternoon **Graeme Stewart** showed the yellow stagecoach from our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cards. Then a yellow iris, yellow wagtails and several sheets of penguins all with yellow feet – naturally! (well, not all have them)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** `Stamp Chat and Five favourite sheets` Meeting was cancelled.

**All further Monday and Thursday meetings are now cancelled until further notice due to meetings restrictions imposed by the Corona Virus.**

### **WESTBEX PAGE**

The raffle ticket monies will be returned to all ticket holders in not too distant future.  
Ann has a master list of all names and ticket numbers. Doesn't she do well!

### **The Thames Valley Philatelic Federation 9-sheet competition**

The competitions will be judged at a later date because the panel are not able to  
get together for the appraisals and marking awards.

It will be arranged for as soon as possible and the results published for all.

### **The Packet Circuit**

Our Club Chairman, Secretary and I have considered the impact of the Corona Virus on our Packet Circuit. It is our wish that the Packet Boxes continue to be circulated as this service is a therapeutic lifeline for the Club and Packet members, particularly at this troubled time. However, we do offer the following guidelines:-

1. Contact with the next member on the list should be made by phone or email before a Packet Box is passed on.
2. Should any member wish not to receive a Box, then the current holder should approach the next member on the list and so on.
3. The Corona Virus bacteria will die on a hard (paper) surface after 72 hours, so it is most unlikely that any infection will survive as our box circulation rarely happens in under 3 days.
4. As a further safeguard, it is recommended that a member in receipt of a Box should wait at least three days before opening it and looking through the booklets. It is strongly recommended that you wash your hands thoroughly before receiving or handling any Packet Box.

Please feel free to talk with the Packet Secretary, Club Chairman or Secretary on any issue concerning these guidelines.

With my best wishes – and stay healthy,  
Neil,  
Packet Secretary  
(Neil Hatton)

David Robinson, a fundraiser and TDPS member, is now confined to home. However he is still available by post, by phone on 01993 776094 or by email at [drobinson@btinternet.com](mailto:drobinson@btinternet.com).

He can offer you stamps by post on approval, GB and CW lists of sets, some 1,600 sets, or bags of weight material to help you pass your days in isolation. All profits go to charity and over past years they have received £75,000. Thank you for your continued support,  
D,M, Robinson MBE, 19, Corndell Gardens, Witney, Oxon, OX28 4DF

## THE BACK PAGE

### “Club Stamps” corner

**Club Stamps** are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

### New Issues

April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Romantic Poets
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	The End of World War II
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Coronation Street
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Roman Britain
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	The Palace of Westminster

### Future Programme and Events

All future Society events are now cancelled until further notice

You all may be aware by now that Westbex 2020 will be the last one that Graeme and Martin will organise and oversee.

The tasks will now be organised by our Chairman Mike Smith and ex-chairman Barney Bardsley with assistance as required from Graeme and Martin

Did you know that the acronym OMG! was first used in September 1917 in a letter to Winston Churchill when he was Minister of Munitions. The sender was Admiral Fisher whose liberal use of exclamation marks showed him to be in tune with teenagers of today!

### Officers of the Club

<b>President</b>	John Baron	01933 650092
<b>Chairman</b>	Mike Smith	01189 333257
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Still vacant	
<b>Secretary</b>	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Ward	01635 864307

### Committee

Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
Neil Hatton	01635 280639
Paul Watkins	07870 851837
Andrew Gore	01635 281552

<b>Archivist</b>	Still Need One	<b>WestBex</b>	Mike, Barney and Ann	<b>Publicity</b>	Martin Farr
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